

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Reds May Seek 10-Year Peace—But Then . . . ?

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON, March 4—Russia's sudden counter-switch to a foreign ministers' conference came just as two counter-switches were being made secretly by U. S. officials. They are as important as the sudden reversal by Moscow.

Counter-Switch No. 1 was an opinion by Allen Dulles, able head of central intelligence, that Russia does want a truce in the cold war. Hitherto Dulles, brother of the Secretary of State and a powerful opinion-molder for the White House, has not agreed with Harold Stassen that Russia really wanted disarmament.

Ambassador Llewelyn Thompson in Moscow has agreed with Stassen and so have some of the under officials in the State Department. Now the potent recommendation of Allen Dulles joins them that Russia would like to ease tensions for as much as 10 years. Dulles is not so cheerful about what may happen after 10 years.

Counter-Switch No. 2—Last week the State Department cabled secret instructions to Ambassador Thompson in Moscow to sound out the Russians on their conditions for a summit conference. Thompson was told to use his own discretion in quiet talks with the Soviet Foreign Office, but to make it absolutely clear Eisenhower would never agree to a summit conference unless the Kremlin agreed to some kind of preparatory talks at a lower level.

This was a switch for the Eisenhower administration which hitherto had demanded a foreign ministers' conference.

Hardly had Thompson delivered this message than the Soviet Foreign Minister came

back with his switcheroo to a foreign ministers' conference.

Chief conclusion to be gained from all this maneuvering is that a summit conference will definitely be held this summer. It may be restricted, but it will be held.

NOTE—Stassen in his final report to the President suggested holding the summit conference in New York at UN headquarters with UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld sitting in; then inviting Bulganin and Khrushchev to the Gettysburg farm for personal talks. One problem Eisenhower faces in a summit conference is the difficulty of prolonged conversations. They tire him.

'Bidet' General

Inside fact about the recall of General John B. "Ack-Ack" Ackerman from one of the prize posts in the Air Force for spending too much money on frills, was that the General was trying to head off a divorce.

Married to one of the most beautiful and more wealthy women of Washington, Faith Donaldson D'Oench, the General had been separated when he was transferred to the Philippines. Mrs. Ackerman remained in Washington and for a time it seemed doubtful that she would join him.

Finally he persuaded her to effect a reconciliation and come to Manila. In Manila, Air Force headquarters were not exactly as in the Ackerman's well-appointed Virginia home on the Potomac, hence the orders for expensive furnishings, bidets, other extras, which aroused the cupidity of other Air Force wives at Clark Field.

General Ackerman is considered one of the most brilliant young officers in the Air Force. He was picked by superiors as a man likely to end up as chief of the Air Force. Tragedy is that because of his attempt to



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"I found another country that dislikes us."

keep a beautiful wife happy in tropical Manila, he's likely to end up with the name John "Bidet" Ackerman, not John Bevier Ackerman.

Merry-Go-Round

Last week Senator Gore of Tennessee bet \$50 that Sen. Harry Byrd of Virginia would run for the Senate despite his earlier refusal. Gore won.... Some of the Floridians who financed handsome Sen. George Smathers in his race against his old friend, ex-Sen. Claude Pepper, are now ready to put money on Pepper to run for the Senate again... Dean Acheson, introducing Harry Truman at the bipartisan foreign aid dinner, said: "He annoys people whom we like to annoy..." Introducing his wife, the ex-Secretary of State said: "She has borne more trouble than anyone I know—my wife, Mrs. Dean Acheson." (Before Acheson made his famous "I will not turn my back on Alger Hiss" statement, he stayed up most of the night discussing with his wife whether he should defend an old friend.)

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